



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/566,762	01/31/2006	Jens Bretchneider	DE030266	6169

24737 7590 09/07/2006

PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS
P.O. BOX 3001
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, KHAI M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2819

DATE MAILED: 09/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/566,762	Applicant(s) BRETCHNEIDER, JENS	
	Examiner Khai M. Nguyen	Art Unit 2819	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 8-16 and 26 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-7 and 17-24 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 1/31/2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

2. The application has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible typographical and grammatical errors. However, Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which he/she may become aware in the application.
3. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

4. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT.
- (e) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC.
- (f) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (g) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (h) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (i) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (j) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (l) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

Claim Objections

5. Claim 1 is objected to because it is unclear what is the meaning of the characters "aof". It is not understood what is the object of protection sought in the last portion of claim 1 even when taking the description into account – "characterized in that aof the multichannel analog/digital conversion calculated in a channel controller (4) or defined by hardware by an expiry controller is valid for the respective entire channel including the detection of the channel sample in the first or second provision area (32), (35)". Clarification or correction is required.

Claim 3 is objected because the object of this claim is unclear "the calculations... for the expiry of the multichannel..." have not been defined in claim 3 or 2.

Claim 25 is also objected because it is not understood what is the object of protection sought in the last portion of claim 25 even when taking the description into account – “characterized in that an expiry of the multichannel analog/digital converter calculated in a channel controller (4) or defined by hardware by an expiry controller is valid for the respective entire channel including the detection of the channel sample in the first or second provision area (32), (35)”. Clarification or correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 & 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Campbell, Jr. et al. (US 5,081,454) (hereinafter referred to as "Campbell").

Regarding claim 1, Campbell discloses a method of multichannel analog/digital (A/D) conversion (col. 5, lines 49-50), in which in a first and second channel respectively in a first or second channel provision area a first and second analog signal awaiting conversion is sampled by a respective first sample and hold element (S/H 40) and second sample and hold element (S/H 42) the respectively stored sample value thereof is applied as a channel sample to a first and second input of an analog multiplexer (analog multiplexer 44) for selection, wherein the processing of the respective channel sample then takes place in a processing cycle of all channels (16 channels – col. 5, lines 49-50) by said channel sample being selected in the analog multiplexer (44) by a

Art Unit: 2819

digital selection control signal (from control circuit 60) for the analog/digital conversion and provided as analog selection signal at an output of the analog multiplexer and, after the respective channel provision area, being converted in an analog/digital converter (254 of Fig. 3), characterized in that aof the multichannel analog/digital conversion calculated in a channel controller (60) or defined by hardware by an expiry controller is valid for the respective entire channel including the detection of the channel sample in the first or second channel provision area.

Regarding claim 25, Campbell discloses an arrangement for multichannel analog/digital (A/D) conversion (Figs. 1-2; col. 5, lines 49-50), wherein the arrangement samples, by means of a respective first and second S/H (Sample & Hold) elements (40 and 42 of Fig. 2), in a first and second channel respectively in a first or second channel provision area a first and second analog signal awaiting conversion and applies the respectively stored sample value thereof as a channel sample to a first and second input of an analog multiplexer (MUX 44) for selection, wherein the arrangement then processes the respective channel sample in a processing cycle of all channels (16 channels) by said channel sample being selected in the analog multiplexer (44) by a digital selection control signal (from control circuit 60) for the analog/digital conversion and provided as analog selection signal at an output of the analog multiplexer and, after the respective channel provision area, being converted in an analog/digital converter (254 of Fig. 3), characterized in that an expiry of the multichannel analog/digital conversion calculated in a channel controller or defined by hardware by an expiry

Art Unit: 2819

controller (60) is valid for the respective entire channel including the detection of the channel sample in the first or second channel provision area.

Prior Art

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure (see references cited on PTO-892 Form attached herewith).

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 4-7 and 17-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. And claims 2, 8-16, and 26 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: for independent claims 2 & 26, the references of record neither reveal nor render obvious the recited limitations including each channel sample is calculated and determined individually by the channel controller (4).

Contact Information

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khai M. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-1809. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 - 5:30 Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rexford (Rex) Barnie can be reached on 571-272-7492. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2819

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nguyen Khai', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Khai M. Nguyen
Art Unit: 2819

571-272-1809